



**Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council**

**THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD:**

**Thursday February 25, 2016**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Clean Care of New England, Inc.**

850 Wellington Avenue  
Cranston, Rhode Island 02910

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Director Peter Gaynor at 2:06 p.m. A roll call was conducted and 14 members were present.

**Council Members and/or their Representatives**

Lieutenant Governor – Present

Adjutant General – Present

Director of Administration-Statewide Planning – Not Present

Director of Department of Health – Not Present

Director Department of Transportation – Not Present

Director Department of Human Services – Not Present

Superintendent of State Police – Not Present

Public Utilities Administrator – Present

Director Department of Environmental Management – Present

Director Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals – Not Present

Director Department of Elderly Affairs – Not Present

Chairperson of the State Water Resources Board – Not Present

Chairperson of the Governor's Commission on Disabilities – Not Present

Chairperson of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority – Not Present

Executive Director of the Coastal Resources Management Council – Not Present

Executive Director of the American Red Cross, Rhode Island Chapter – Present

Executive Director Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency – Not Present

State Court Administrator – Not Present

Executive Director of the Commission on Deaf and Hard of Hearing – Not Present

Director Providence Emergency Management Agency – Present

Executive Director of E-11 Emergency Telephone System Division – Not Present

Federal Security Director of the Transportation Security Administration for RI – Not Present

One Representative from the electric industry – Not Present

One Representative from the gas industry – Not Present

One Representative from the phone industry – Not Present  
Executive Director of the RI Petroleum Association or other similarly situated position – Not Present  
Two reps from general public, one who shall have expertise in disaster preparedness – Not Present  
Rep from RI League of Cities and Towns – Present  
Rep from the media – Not Present  
Rep from the water supply industry – Present  
Rep from the health care industry – Not Present  
Rep from the Firefighters Association – Not Present  
Rep from the Association of Fire Chiefs – Present  
Rep from the ambulance company – Not present  
Rep from a level one trauma hospital – Not Present

### **Participants**

Sam Adams, URI Public Safety  
James Ball, DEM  
Michael Borg, PEMA  
Donna DiMichele, DOA OLIS  
Peter Gaynor, RIEMA  
Peter Ginaitt  
Paulette Hamilton, Town of N. Smithfield  
James Lanni, DPUC  
Sue Licardi, RI Water Resources Board

Elizabeth McDonald, American Red Cross  
Joseph Merrill, RI National Guard  
Angelo Miccoli, United Way 211  
Alysia Mihalakos, DOH  
Allison Rogers, DOA  
Robert Seltzer, RI Fire Chief's Assoc.  
Tony Silva, Office of Lt. Governor  
Jeff Stevens, CDR Maguire

### **Approval of Minutes from January 28, 2016**

- Alysia Mihalakos, DOH, noted that her name was misspelled several times in the minutes and on page 7 of last month's minutes, the second paragraph should read:
  - *Discussion ensued pertaining to these changes. Alysia Mihalakos stated that the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services oversees four departments (and therefore, their Directors) now: the Department of Health; the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals; the Department of Children, Youth, and Families; and the Department of Human Services. Elderly Affairs is now a division inside of the Department of Human Services; it is no longer a separate department.*
- Donna DiMichele, DOA OLIS, noted that on page 7 of last month's minutes her comment should read:
  - *Donna DiMichele, DOA OLIS, explained how her position in ESF17 (Emergency Support Function) participant, and she would like to have one of the ESF17 leads have a meaningful and official position on EMAC to represent the cultural heritage community*
- Allison Rogers, DOA, noted that page 7 of last month's minutes should read:
  - *Allison Rogers, DOA, suggested removing the phrase "Statewide Planning" because the title "Director of Administration/Statewide Planning" refers to two separate*

positions. She also noted that the statute does not clearly state as to whether the named positions can have a designee and elaborated that the Director of the agency should choose who should represent them.

## **Old Business**

Peter Gaynor, EMAC, reviewed the PowerPoint slides as summarized below:

**SRRI Status** – 33 of the 39 communities in the state are engaged with 31 in process, 11 applications have been submitted and 6 communities are currently storm ready

**Code Red Status** – All 39 communities are engaged with 5 in process, 0 MOU in process and 26 MOU signed

- Michael Borg, PEMA, suggests that the number of sign ups be added to the SRRI and Code Red charts. Peter Gaynor, EMAC, agrees and takes note.
- **Question:** Who initiates the code red alerts?
- **Answer:** Alerts are initiated by the National Weather Service, but you can sign up for different types of alerts and adjust the settings for what you'd like to be notified for and how (voice call, text, etc.)

## **EMAC Membership**

Peter Gaynor, EMAC, shared several suggestions about membership and voting rights from non-present members:

- Designate voting/non-voting members
- Create an executive board for voting or "official business" purposes
- Define a lower percentage/fixed number for the quorum in the legislation per Robert's Rules or order. *Anita will look at the legality of changing the legislation in that way.*

Peter Gaynor, EMAC, reviewed slides on the changes previously made to the EMAC membership list as summarized below:

- After additions and eliminations, there are currently 21 members (down from 22) on the EMAC Members *Ex Officio* roster
- "Director of Administration/Statewide Planning" has been changed to "Director of Administration"
- "Director Secretary of Human Services" has been changed to "Secretary of Health & Human Services"
- "Chairperson of the State Water Resources Board" was eliminated
- "President, RI Emergency Management Association" was added

- “Executive Director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency” was changed to “Director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency”
- “State Court Administrator” was eliminated
- “Federal Director of the Transportation Security Administration for Rhode Island” was eliminated
- “Chair, RI Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)” was added
- After additions and eliminations, there are now 13 members (down from 18) on the EMAC *At the pleasure of roster*
- “One representative of the electric industry” was changed to “One representative of the electric & gas industry”
- “One representative of the gas industry” was eliminated
- “The executive director of the RI petroleum association or other similarly situated person” was eliminated
- “One (1) representative of the general public, who shall have expertise in disaster preparedness” was changed to “Two (2) representatives of the general public, who shall have expertise in disaster preparedness”
- “One representative of a private ambulance company” was eliminated
- “One representative of a level 1 trauma hospital who shall have direct expertise in disaster preparedness” was eliminated

Discussion of EMAC membership changes ensued as summarized below:

Angelo Miccoli, United Way 2-1-1, questions the fact that 2-1-1 is not on the membership list. He notes that 2-1-1 has a place on all other EMAC membership rosters. He also notes that 2-1-1 is not a VOAD member. Peter Gaynor, EMAC, says 2-1-1 can be added.

Peter Ginaitt noted that there is no representation from the Police Chief’s association on the EMAC membership roster.

It was agreed that adding “(# of) his/her designees” after member names on the membership roster would be beneficial for attendance purposes.

**Question:** Has a member of the general assembly ever attend one of these meetings?

**Answer Peter Gaynor, EMAC:** Not since I’ve been with EMAC.

It was noted that according to statute, all 40 members of EMAC are voting members. There is no breakdown or designation beyond that all-inclusive 40. Peter Gaynor, EMAC, suggests that the Lieutenant Governor meet with the Senate President and the Speaker of the House to discuss possible changes to the statute. Peter Gaynor, EMAC also suggests that the question of general assembly members attending EMAC meetings be discussed between the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker and Senate President.

Alysia Mihalakos, DOH, brought up a point made during the last meeting regarding EMS being represented on EMAC. This raised the question, should EMS have its own seat? Tony Silva, Lieutenant Governor's Office, noted that in many cases fire chiefs can represent both. Peter Gaynor, EMAC, remarked that we need to keep in mind that the goal is to reduce the number of members but he does not feel strongly either way. Alysia Mihalakos, DOH, also revisited her comment from January's meeting about whether or not Elderly Affairs should have its own membership in EMAC. She explained, that the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services oversees four departments: the Department of Health; the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals; the Department of Children, Youth, and Families and the Department of Human Services. Elderly Affairs is now a division inside of the Department of Human Services. It is no longer a separate department.

Donna DiMichele, DOA OLIS noted that she feels the titles on the membership roster may be too narrow which could be affecting attendance. She suggested that the language be adjusted for a broader interpretation. She gave the simplified example: "a firefighter" rather than, "the fire chief." Peter Gaynor, EMAC, acknowledged suggestion but expressed concern about practicality when it comes to managing broad titles and membership.

Sue Licardi, RI Water Resources Board Commissioner, brought up a point regarding the elimination of the Chairperson of the Water Resources Board from the EMAC membership roster. She noted that removing the chairperson position and leaving the "Representative of the Water Supply Industry" may not be the best option in terms of having someone on the council who has access to the key, updated, and specific information regarding water supply in different areas of the state. Peter Gaynor, EMAC, made note of this suggestion.

Allison Rogers, DOA, interjected that the "Representative of the Water Supply Industry" is a staff member within DOA, just so everyone is aware.

Robert Seltzer, RI Fire Chief's Association, commented that the council needs 25-30 sitting members, because generally only 15 people attend. He noted that if the council is going to make changes, people need to attend the meetings.

Sam Adams, URI Public Safety, revisited his comment from the January meeting about establishing an executive committee as a solution. Peter Gaynor noted that he, Tony Silva, and the Lieutenant Governor will need to have a coordinated discussion on that subject.

### **New Business**

### **MCI Plan Update**

Peter Gaynor, EMAC, reviewed slides regarding the MCI Plan Revision. The Response Working Group will be tasked with reviewing the plan.

Discussion of the term "mass casualty" ensued as summarized below:

Peter Gaynor, EMAC, noted that the term “mass casualty” is used too often. He provided the example that today the term is being used to describe a two-car crash and a plane crash. He questioned whether the term “mass casualty” has meaning anymore. He also noted that there is a difference between a mass casualty and needing more resources (a mutual aid request). Peter Gaynor, EMAC, noted that the group is working on making a distinction between the two terms and the key to that is changing one’s mindset when it comes to the term “mass casualty.” He also clarified that MCI is a system of things that happen in support of firefighters/police on scene; a system that focuses on getting a patient from the scene to a hospital bed.

Sam Adams, URI Public Safety, added that the national EMS curriculum has changed over the years in terms of how students are educated when it comes to the topic of mass casualties. He noted that this could possibly be why we’re seeing a difference in the use of the term “mass casualty.”

Peter Gaynor, EMAC, also noted that the Statewide Emergency Notification Policy will be sent out to the Response Working Group this week. He stressed that this is not a public document and requested that it does not get shared outside of the group.

Finally, Peter Gaynor, EMAC, noted the list of “New Plans Coming” which includes: Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment (HIRA), Consequence Analysis (CA), Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan (CEMP), Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), Continuity of Governance Plan (COG), Recovery Plan (RP), Gap Analysis (GA), Situation Reporting (Sit Rep) Plan, Resource Management Plan (RMP), Special Events Coordination Plan.

### **Grant Programs Update**

Peter Gaynor, EMAC, reviewed the slides on Grant programs Grant Programs Directorate Information Bulletin 408. As summarized below:

- The Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) can be applied to by any State Administrative Agency, due by 11:50 pm on April 25, with \$3,734,500 for Rhode Island
- The Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) can be applied to by all entities covered by an Area Maritime Security Plan, due by 11:59 pm on April 25
- The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), can be applied to by any State Administrative Agency or the State’s EMA, due by 11:59 pm on March 18 with \$3,306,975 for Rhode Island

### **THIRA Update**

Peter Gaynor, EMAC, reviewed slides on THIRA highlighting the highest rated and lowest core capability ratings.

### **Open Discussion/Members Comments/Suggestions/Recommendation**

Michael Borg, PEMA, provided a quick NCAA update. He announced that the game will take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> and travel into Providence that day is not recommended. Five hotels in Providence and 3 in Warwick have been booked for the NCAA. He noted that there has been collaboration with PEMA, the Providence Police and Fire Departments, the Dunkin Donuts Center, RI State Police, and other groups for the security of this event. There will be a unified command post at the convention center that will operate March 16<sup>th</sup> – March 19<sup>th</sup>. There are no security threats at this time.

Robert Seltzer, Fire Chief's Association suggested that Edward Mellow, who is involved with a records management and communications project, attend an EMAC meeting in the future. Both Peter Gaynor, EMAC and Tony Silva, Lieutenant Governor's Office agreed that this would be a useful meeting.

### **Announcements**

The next EMAC meeting will be held, Thursday March 31, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at Clean Care New England.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned by Peter Gaynor, EMAC at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:  
Andrea Palagi  
Policy and Administrative Aide  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor